

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00363 241623Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 HA-05 /090 W
-----019526 241627Z /50

O R 241610Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6826
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0363

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: DIFFERENT VERSION OF BOTHA'S REMARKS

REF: CAPE TOWN 0356,

1. THE CITIZEN (FEB. 24) VERSION OF FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA'S LATEST REPORTED REMARKS IN WINDHOEK GIVES A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT IMPRESSION THAN THE REPORT CONTAINED IN REFTEL. ACCORDING TO THE CITIZEN VERSION, BOTHA SAID "THE TIME ELEMENT IS BECOMING A PROBLEM BUT IT CAN BE DONE IN THE TEN MONTHS LEFT TO THE END OF THE YEAR DEPENDING ON HOW LONG THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WILL TAKE WITH ITS DELIBERATIONS ON THE CONSTITUTION."

2. ACCORDING TO THE CITIZEN, BOTHA SAID THE CURRENT MOOD AMONG THE PUBLIC WAS ONE OF UNEASINESS. "THERE IS A DESIRE ON THE PART OF MANY SECTIONS OF THE POPULATION,"
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PAGE 02 CAPE T 00363 241623Z

BOTHA REPORTEDLY SAID, "THAT THINGS SHOULD NOW BE BROUGHT TO A CLOSE."

3. COMMENT: WHILE THIS VERSION STILL IMPLIES THAT THE INDEPENDENCE DATE COULD SLIP, IT REITERATES THE PREVIOUS SAG LINE THAT THERE ARE LOCAL PRESSURES TO MOVE AHEAD.

4. MEANWHILE, THE ARGUS (FEB. 24) REPORTS BOTHA AS SAYING, APPARENTLY ON THE SAME OCCASION AS ABOVE, THAT HE HAD BRIEFED THE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL ON THE MAIN PROBLEM AREAS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THESE PROBLEM AREAS "ARE UNDERSTOOD TO BE":

"THE SIZE OF SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY FORCES AS THE TERRITORY MOVES TO INDEPENDENCE.

"THE PRESENCE AND NUMBER OF UNITED NATIONS PERSONNEL.

"THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS.

"THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL AND THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UN.

"THE ELECTION DATE.

"TO A LESSER EXTENT, WALVIS BAY."
BOWDLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Markings:
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